

**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 23, 2013**  
**7:00pm Town Hall**

***Chr. Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm***

**Present:** Chairman John Lamson, Vice Chair Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Selectmen's Rep Jack O'Reilly, Sandra Sweeney, Janis Marconi, Mike Marconi. In the audience were Selectmen Rick Stern and Jan Stuart along with Bill Sweeney. Also present was Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi. School Board Rep David Mueller and Mary Crossley arrived at 7:03pm.

**Minute Approval:** *M. Marconi moved to accept the minutes of January 16, 2013. Gail Pare seconded. The minutes were approved with amendment (correcting the spelling of Christa Bellmare) to the vote of 7-0 in favor.*

**General Government 2013 Budget Request of \$ 1,788,713:** *G. Pare moved to tentatively recommend the General Government budget of \$ 1,788,713. Sandra Sweeney seconded. Passed 9-0 after the following discussion.* Selectmen's Rep Jack O'Reilly presented the budget along with Selectmen Rick Stern and Jan Stuart.

- Stipends – about 8 positions receive stipends. A 1.7% C.O.L.A. was applied for 2013.
- Part time people got a wage adjustment. Eligible full time people had a step and C.O.L.A.
- Computer Budget – Planning's laptop needs to be replaced and \$1,500 was added to the Selectmen's computer line.
- Web Page - \$5,000 (new line) – S Stuart stated this will be for hiring a firm to update/redesign the town's web page.
- Election budget down – fewer elections in 2013
- Assessing Services – With 4 ongoing utility appeals, the extra was added for the extra services expecting to be required.
- Legal – New line for Drummond and Woodsum as Matt Upton's charges used to fall under Rob Upton's practice when they both worked together. Matt changed firms.
- Rooms and Meals Tax – G. Pare asked if we were anticipating an increase in that revenue due to the State changing their tax – J. O'Reilly felt those communities with an exorbitant number of eating facilities would benefit most.
- Building Administration – Wages shown are for custodian plus 3 weeks built in to cover vacation substitution.
- Building Fuel – Committee discussed oil vs propane in the various buildings and temperature setting and the cost savings. They particularly looked at the h/w garage and felt that the temperature program could be changed.
- Town Garage Maintenance Costs – It was explained that the gate repair/loop installation and costs to maintain the above ground fuel tanks all come out of that line.
- Old Town Hall Heating Costs – was \$8,511 last year and \$ 4,428 this year. The committee spoke of its usage and maintaining a level temperature and the benefit of doing so.
- Police Station – Just completed an insulation project which will make a big difference. Fire Station was scheduled to be insulated but as it turns out, is difficult.
- Stone School – Windows to be properly boarded up along with some wood replacement
- Life Over 50 – A new tax - employees who earn over \$50,000 and receive a life insurance benefit.
- Old Parsonage Alarm – G Pare asked if there was any reason the system is often disarmed. V.C G Klanchesser stated that the monitoring company can generate reports for entrance times, etc. if we ask. The AA will check with our custodian
- Regional Associations – Discussed at length. More was placed in the misc line – some organizations fail to request release of funds even after being contacted multiple times.

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- Code Enforcement – Will be taking the health care benefit this year.
- Emergency Management – spoke of the stipend of the co-directors
- Transfer Station Phone line – The director has put in for a reimbursement; however it hasn't been processed yet.
- Recycling and Tipping Fees – Craig price shops to ensure we are getting the biggest bang for our buck. Spoke of costs for pick up vs recycling and hauling.
- Mosquito Control – J. O'Reilly informed the committee that Municipal Pest will be at our public hearing if anyone has any questions.
- Welfare is down – Portsmouth is contracted out to administer. G. Pare hopes that those in need do step forward and ask for help. S. Stuart added that both the Police and Fire keep an eye out on folks and check in on those who may have a need. Our mail man Carl also keeps an eye out.
- Land Mgmt – Drainage for \$50,000 is for the Mott Pond Restoration project.
- Hydrant Rental – Portsmouth owns and maintains our hydrants
- Capital Outlay - \$3,000 budgeted for a portable generator for Highway
- Tri-Centennial – The committee was given a spreadsheet of events and costs. The \$20,000 requested will be offset by guest costs and any donations we may receive. Has to be budgeted for to spend.
- Warrant Articles – The warrant is not quite ready yet so J. O'Reilly read through what was on the current draft. The Board hopes to finalize their recommendations by Feb 4 and it will be sent to the Budget Committee the next day.
- Bond and Tax Rate – Jack's best estimation would be roughly 40 cents on the rate next year if the bond WA passes. M. Marconi mentioned that those folks talking about the bond request generally preferred to wait until the garage bond was paid off.

***Chr. Lamson then called for the vote, which passed 9-0.***

S. Stern spoke of the development at Pease with Arboredum with the probability of a line being set by Portsmouth coming to the gate within perhaps a few years. This was in reference to a discussion about the water line or cistern needed for the library project. Current projections for that cost given by Library is \$172,000. G. Pare spoke of the water line in the historic district that only had a very limited flow and that it was probably 40 years older than the water system Newington now has. J. O'Reilly stated that it would be best to do the line correctly to be able to supply all the buildings in that area. Cozzi has been in communication with Portsmouth on the matter.

Mary Crossley mentioned the need for sidewalks coming up over the Nimble Hill hill and it would be so beneficial to have them extend to the library. J. O'Reilly stated that the engineering is being done right now for a bike path which hopefully will resolve those concerns.

The budget committee would like to meet at 10:00am the morning of Town Meeting on March 16 vs 10:15am as there may be items that need to be addressed in addition to the public hearing minutes.

***At 8:43pm, the meeting adjourned with no objections.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi  
Administrative Assistant